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ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM IN THE FIELD OF WATER AND MINERAL RESOURCES, AND INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

Mr. G. Cano (Argentina), Mr. P. M. Chipungu (Zambia), Mr. D. A. Davis (Canada), Mr. V. M. Dolgopolov (Russian Federation), Ms. M. Falkenmark (Sweden), Mr. U. Farinelli (Italy), Mr. M. Hoffman (Poland), Mr. M. N. Khan (Pakistan), Mr. J. M. Mejía Angel (Colombia), Mr. E. K. Mwongera (Kenya), Mr. D. B. Otchoun (Benin), Mr. H. M. Oudshoorn (Netherlands), Mr. N. Pavlovschi (Romania), Mr. R. W. R. Rutland (Australia), Mr. L. F. Soares de Assis (Brazil), Mr. N. Suryanarayanan (India) and Mr. Zhang Hai-Lun (China): draft resolution

Activities of the United Nations system in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination

The Committee on Natural Resources,

Recalling its decision 1993/302 of 29 July 1993,

Stressing the need to raise awareness of the magnitude of the global water crisis,

Recognizing the importance of water resources and mineral resources for sustainable development, especially in developing countries and economies in transition,

Mindful of the need to enhance the coordination and integration of activities in the water resources sector, both within and outside the United Nations system,

Concerned about the inadequacy of financial resources for the United Nations technical cooperation programmes in the development of mineral and water resources,

Emphasizing the importance of the development and implementation of adequate social policies to respond to the continuing trend towards privatization of the mining sector,

Aware of the decline in voluntary contributions to the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration,

Emphasizing the need for the restructuring of the Fund in the context of the general trend towards privatization in the mining sector,

Bearing in mind the important role of satellite remote sensing for thematic mapping in exploring and exploiting natural resources and for monitoring environmental factors related to natural resources development, and the use of space technology in geological disaster management,

Taking into account the internationally coordinated multidisciplinary spaceborne programme and the new series of satellite sensors, as well as the transmission service of high resolution images from spacecraft,

Bearing in mind the requirements of developing countries in having rapid access to information for their sustainable development,

1. Notes with appreciation the reports of the Secretary-General on the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and inter-agency coordination in the field of water resources, 1/ on technical cooperation activities of the United Nations system in the mining sector, 2/ and on existing international principles, rules and regulations governing the relationship between the owner of data collected through remote-sensing techniques and the country to which such data are related, and present state of activities within the United Nations system 3/ and the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on activities of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; 4/

2. Acknowledges the value of overview reports covering the activities of the United Nations in the field of water and mineral resources, and inter-agency coordination;

1/ E/C.7/1994/2.

2/ E/C.7/1994/3.

3/ E/C.7/1994/11.

4/ E/C.7/1994/12.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare separate reports on water resources and mineral resources, which will focus on progress made towards achieving sustainable development, describing the coordination and integration of activities of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, as well as on changes made by the United Nations in response to Agenda 21 5/ and on the success of programmes in meeting the goals set;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, for submission to the Committee on Natural Resources at its third session, identifying the technology and data sets to be received by future satellites and to be made available to the public sector, and the modalities by which such data can be received;

5. Calls upon the regional commissions and specialized agencies of the United Nations sytem to prepare concise background reports on their activities, that are directly relevant to the terms of reference of the Committee;

6. Requests that these background reports be circulated to the members of the Committee at least two weeks in advance of the third session of the Committee.

5/ Report of the United Nations Confrence on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 2-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.